For Commission Staff Use Only:
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PROPOSED

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: Dave Marlow, Fire, Fuels, Veg, Urban Lot Staff
US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)

Placement of a Forest Service Type 3 Engine on the North Shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin

Finding: (*i.e., Conclusions reached after investigation and/or evaluation of facts*)

The temporary placement or permanent stationing of a Forest Service Type 3 engine proximal to the North Shore for shorter wildland fire response times is desirable.

Background and Supporting Evidence: *(A short statement justifying the Finding and describing desired outcome(s); usually no more than half a page.)*

Since the administrative inception of the Lake Tahoe Management Unit (LTBMU) in 1972 there have been several locations where engines have been stationed throughout the Basin. These areas include William Kent Campground, Stateline Lookout, Bay View, the Estates, Fredrick's, Spooner Summit, and Meyers Work Center. Several of these locations are no longer utilized for several reasons which include structural condition, conversion to recreation or interpretive sites, health and safety concerns and highway access issues.

Currently the Forest Service has four 5-person, 7-day effective Type 3 engines at three stations which are fully staffed during the normal "fire season". Currently, the Forest Service has two engines located in Meyers, one engine in Meeks Bay and one on Spooner Summit. The Unit also has one 20-person suppression crew and a 10-person fuels crew with a tactical water tender and a Type 6 engine located at Meyers Work Center.

Since 2002 discussions regarding the placement of an engine on the North Shore (Tahoe City) and the development of a new fire station in conjunction with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District area have occurred. The continued dialogue has been positive and encouraging. However, there are internal financial issues to resolve regarding lease options and specific space requirements for the Forest Service Engine and Crew. Both could be resolved in a positive manner.

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Engine location should be based on geographics, fire history, fire occurrence and ignitions, values to be protected and assessed fire hazard.

Ideally, fire stations would be located on all four shores of Lake Tahoe. Currently three of the four shores of the lake are covered with two of the four fire engines stationed on the South Shore where most of the ignitions have historically occurred.

Recommendation(s) *(Based upon an analysis of the Finding, the following recommendation(s) should be made to the Governors):*

The Governors request the LTBMU to explore opportunities regarding the joint location of the Fire Protection District and Forest Service engines to improve wildland fire response times on the north shore areas of the Lake Tahoe basin.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas)*:

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost – Cost of a Forest Service "stand alone" two bay station, offices, storage, and infrastructure is estimated at $1,400,000. Adding to a facility under construction would reduce the overall costs.
- ☐ Funding source - unknown at this time. Likely appropriated funds
- ☐ Staffing – Not Applicable because existing engine and prevention modules would be relocated to the new location.
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws – conforms with policy and regulation

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational – improve operational efficiency and response times to the North Shore Area
- ☐ Social -
- ☐ Political -
- ☐ Policy -
- ☐ Health and Safety -
- ☐ Environmental -
- ☐ Interagency -